

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the Declaration of Inventors filed on April 2, 2004, as defective for lacking the application number and filing date of its parent application. Applicants will submit a newly executed declaration shortly, and upon submission, request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 25 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Okawa in view of O'Donnell. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

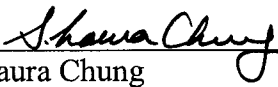
Claim 25 recites a method for producing an aliphatic polyester multifilament crimped yarn, the method comprising "providing a crimp to drawn multifilament fiber...using a crimp-providing apparatus that utilizes heated air at 120-170 °C" in which "the yarn is produced by drawing a non-drawn yarn via two-step drawing processes." Attached is a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 of co-inventor Kazuya Matsumura, which establishes a date of invention for the claimed invention to be prior to April 10, 2002, the publication date of Okawa. Please note that dates of the reports submitted by Mr. Matsumura have been redacted. However, Mr. Matsumura declares that all of these dates are prior to April 10, 2002. Thus, this declaration removes the Okawa reference as a prior art reference. O'Donnell alone fails to disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, the pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **360842009711**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment